

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A granular metal powder that:
 - (a) is produced by the steps of:
 - (a1) preparing a solution comprising:
 - (a1a) a medium selected from the group consisting of water, an organic solvent, and a mixture of them;
 - (a1b) metal particles having an average particle diameter of at least 1 nm and at most 100 nm; and
 - (a1c) an organic compound capable of being adsorbed on the surface of the metal particles; and
 - ~~(a2) removing most of a medium selected from the group consisting of the water and the organic solvent from the solution; and~~
 - ~~(b) has an apparent density of at least 1.0 g/ml and at most 5.0 g/ml.~~
 - (a2) drying a medium selected from the group consisting of the water and the organic solvent;
 - (b) contains the organic compound;
 - (c) has an apparent density of at least 1.0 g/ml and at most 5.0 g/ml; and
 - (d) contains water with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 1.5 wt%.

Claims 2-5 (Cancelled)

6. (New) A granular metal powder that:
 - (a) comprises:
 - (a1) metal particles having an average particle diameter of at least 1 nm and at most 100 nm; and
 - (a2) an organic compound capable of being adsorbed on the surface of the metal particles;

- (b) has an apparent density of at least 1.0 g/ml and at most 5.0 g/ml; and
- (c) contains water with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 1.5 wt%.

7. (New) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 1, the granular metal powder having a particle diameter of at least 1 μ m and at most 100 μ m.

8. (New) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 6, the granular metal powder having a particle diameter of at least 1 μ m and at most 100 μ m.

9. (New) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 1, the granular metal powder containing the organic compound with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 20 wt% in terms of carbon content.

10. (New) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 6, the granular metal powder containing the organic compound with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 20 wt% in terms of carbon content.

11. (New) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 1, wherein the metal particles are composed of a material selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Sn, W, Ir, Pt, and Au when expressed as the symbol of elements;
- (b) an alloy of the metal; and
- (c) a metal composite of the metal.

12. (New) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 6, wherein the metal particles are composed of a material selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Sn, W, Ir, Pt, and Au when expressed as the symbol of elements;
- (b) an alloy of the metal; and
- (c) a metal composite of the metal.